

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6702

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, GT

SUBJECT: ROWLANDS TO GUATEMALA

1. PATRICK DUFF, HEAD OF FCO WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT, INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER NOVEMBER 19 THAT GUATEMALANS HAD RESPONDED TO FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S RECENT MESSAGE AND AGREED TO SEE TED ROWLANDS, UNDER SECRETARY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. GUATEMALANS HAVE SPECIFICALLY ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT ROWLANDS VISIT TO GUATEMALA NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. UK UN PERMREP RICHARD PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE ROWLANDS MISSION IN STATEMENT FOLLOWING UNGA VOTE ON BELIZE RESOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO UNDERScore BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE, BUT REFERENCE TO ROWLANDS WILL NOW BE DROPPED. ROWLANDS TRIP TO GUATEMALA CITY IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 27.

2. DUFF SPECULATED THAT GUATEMALANS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY HMG INITIATIVE SO QUICKLY AFTER THEIR EXPECTED DEFEAT AT UNGA. HE GUESSED THAT INFLAMED GUATEMALAN PUBLIC OPINION SIMPLY WOULD NOT UNDER-
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STAND AND THAT HARD-LINERS WOULD POINT A FINGER AT A

WEAK-KNEED GOVERNMENT.

3. DUFF ALSO ASKED WHETHER US INTENDED TO ABSTAIN ON MEXICAN RESOLUTION IF IT REACHED THE FLOOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD US OFFICIAL POSITION, BUT SAID ABSTENTION WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH US POSITION THUS FAR. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION. STATE 269041 NOT CLEAR WHETHER WE CAN OR SHOULD INFORM HMG OF OUR INTENDED ABSTENTION.

RICHARDSON

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